

The Blurb

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

c/o 641 Kismet Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115-1114



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W3IIM R



FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Blurb



November 1997

A NEW STAR IN PHIL-MONT?



DERRICK PITTS
CHIEF
ASTRONOMER
OF
FRANKLIN
INSTITUTE
VISITS PHIL-MONT

OL' TIMERS' NIGHT-NOVEMBER 12

Public Service Since 1949



VOLUME 47

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the *first* non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 p.m.—**SHARP!**

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

Internet Web site: <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

E-mail: pmrc@comcat.com

2-meter repeater: 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but transmits 91.5 Hz.)

Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:

Southampton 131.8 Hz—**Center City** 103.5 Hz—**Lansdale** 114.8 Hz—**Broomall** 85.4 Hz

70-cm repeater: 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex: 147.51 MHz

24-hour club information at W3AA: 215-448-1139

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

W3EM - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

W3AA - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

W3AA packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: w3aa@w3aa.sepa.pa.usa.noam

W3AA e-mail: w3aa@fi.edu

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: W3CH, Russ Stafford, 14 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403 610-631-3401 x902

russ@hdj.com—w3ch@w3ch.sepa.pa.usa.noam

VICE PRESIDENT: W3GQD, Bill Chedeville, 1365 Mark Drive, West Chester, PA 19380 610-431-3498

billch1@juno.com

SECRETARY: N3PVO, Carol Sebзда, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518

n3pvo@aol.com

TREASURER: K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991

k2bn@agtannenbaum.com

DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); AA3EP (97); K3GNM (97); K3KUD (97); KB3IV (A)

COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN
Audit: KE3OP
Awards: AA3EP
Blurb Folding: WB3KOH&J
Budget: K3KUD
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DX: NU3Y
Education: W3CH
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE
Field Day: WU3I
Membership: W3LEN
Net Control: KB3IV
Program: W3GQD
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Publicity: W3RM
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Special Events: N3WCO
Sunshine: WU3I
TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: ND3Q
W3AA: KB3IV
Welcome: N3PDO
Youth: KE3ZY

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DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

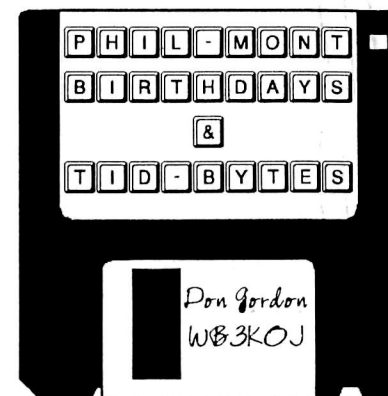
NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
THURSDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	YOUTH NET

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Pauline Green (XYL K3HES*)
- 04 Arlene Spare (XYL N3TAL)
Charlie Weigand - AA3EP
- 05 Delores Malone (XYL N3MGS)
Al Tribble - W3STW
- 09 Walter Rice Jr - N3RCR
Gladys Schlichting - (XYL N3EMN)
- 12 Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX
Mike VanMeter - KE7YE*
- 13 Chuck Snyder - W2HSA
- 18 "Gil" Gilpin - W3SRU
Jules Miller - N3XHD*
- 19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH
- 20 Bob Gargano - N3YGY*
- 21 Guy Knickerbocker - W3RJA*
- 22 Bill Popovic - N3FVI
- 24 Roxanne Pearlstein - N3KQH
Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)
Gina Policarpo - N3QKZ
- 25 Dusty Rhoads - ND3Q
- 27 Mel Toren - N2MT
- 29 Bob Namm - K3RRC
Bob Nicotero - KB2ERL
Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

*New Member 1996-97



MEMBERSHIP STATS.

167 FULL
18 FAMILY
13 YOUTH
3 HONORARY
5 PENDING
206

OMISSIONS, ADDITIONS & CHANGES TO FALL DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

- Change KE3LK's packet address to: ke3lk@w3ch
- Add K3CJ e-mail: k3cj@juno.com
- Change WB3EQW's Work Number to: 410-579-4035

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership?
Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...
contact Mike Tannenbaum - K2BN, for details.

"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy 🚗!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

CALL: **AA3AI**
 NAME: **Ellen Hul**
 HANDLE: Ellen
 CLASS: Extra
 ADDRESS: 1628 Carlene Court
 Langhorne, PA
 19047
 OCCUPATION: Self Employed
 HOME PHONE: 215-968-6758
 BUSINESS PHONE: 215-949-9490
 E-MAIL: ellenaa3ai@aol.com
 PACKET:
 COMMITTEES: Emergency, Special Events, VE

CALL: **N3JHR**
 NAME: **Chris McCormick**
 HANDLE:
 CLASS: Technician
 ADDRESS: 15150 Milford Street
 Philadelphia, PA
 19116
 OCCUPATION: Fire Fighter
 HOME PHONE: 215-969-2626
 BUSINESS PHONE: 215-467-9906
 E-MAIL: mac3295@erols.com
 PACKET:
 COMMITTEES: Emergency

CALL: **N3NAA**
 NAME: **Jeffrey Jankowlak**
 HANDLE: Jeff
 CLASS: General
 ADDRESS: 263 Quarry Road
 Gap, PA
 17527-9004
 OCCUPATION: Supervisor
 HOME PHONE: 717-442-8788
 BUSINESS PHONE: 610-524-2410
 E-MAIL: n3naa@juno.com
 PACKET: n3naa@wb3fgj.#sepa.pa.usa.noam
 COMMITTEES: Special Events

CALL: **N3WIQ**
 NAME: **Peter Broselow**
 HANDLE: Pete
 CLASS: Technician
 ADDRESS: 309 Florence Ave., Apt 607
 Jenkintown, PA
 19046-2602
 OCCUPATION:
 HOME PHONE: 215-885-8361
 BUSINESS PHONE:
 E-MAIL:
 PACKET:
 COMMITTEES: W3AA, Welcome

CALL: **N3XTM**
 NAME: **William Share**
 HANDLE:
 CLASS: Technician
 ADDRESS: 15 E. Ridge Circle
 Langhorne, PA
 19053
 OCCUPATION: Sales
 HOME PHONE: 215-757-9734
 BUSINESS PHONE: 610-649-3600
 E-MAIL:
 PACKET:
 COMMITTEES:

WARNING

"Former AOL Employee" chain letter

There is a chain letter targeted against the America On-Line service, giving false warnings on a new version of the AOL connection software, and asking to send the message further.

There are no such problems known in AOL 4.0. Do not spread this message. See the following for more information:

<http://www.datafellows.fi/news/hoax.htm>



The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, W3CH

Well, here it is November, and I sure hope that you have all gotten all of your antenna work done by now, as it sure did get cold! There are many pluses to report!

If you haven't seen the November QST yet, it looks like we did very well in the Field Day standings! We placed 10th in 6A out of 30 plus in our section. Chris (N3IEI) and Dick (W3RM) did a fine job of putting it all together last year, so when you hear them on the air don't forget to say thank you! Next year Steve (WU3I) will be heading up Field Day. Don't forget to see him early to stake out a spot for this coming June. I have mine for 75/80 meters.

With all of the jumping up and down about the MS150 CITY TO SHORE bike tour and P.M.R.C. members not helping, we ended up with a very fine showing from our club. Over 42 members showed up [editor counts 52] to help the 4,034 bikers ride 150 miles (175 if they rode the Century Loop), and raise a little over 1 million dollars for M.S. Not a bad weekend's work. This year the event became the largest nonprofit two-day bike tour in the U.S.! Due, in part, to the 123 hams who helped make this a safe ride for all of the participants. Remember, next year sign up early to get the spot you want! Forms will go out the end of June through July 1st, as well as in the July *Blurb*. Tell a friend to come join-in on the fun! Plan to stay overnight with the ham gang in Ocean City, NJ. Make a weekend out of it. Mark your calendar for September 26th and 27th, 1998. PUT IT IN INK

for next year's event!

Moving right along, it's election time once more. If you would like to run for a Phil-Mont office please contact Jeff (KE3UV) and let him know! There are plenty of openings for a whole new party, as this is a multiparty club. Get a party to run for offices from Prez on down. Of course, "The Party of Goals" will be running once more, and here in the *Blurb* you will find a list of who is running on the Goals' Party ticket. I hope you will all show your support and vote for all the folks listed. This will continue the smooth running of the club, or as it was put: "LEAD, FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY!" I say "IF YOU CAN'T RUN WITH THE BIG DOGS, THEN SIT ON THE PORCH!" This club is on the move, and will continue to move forward with the support of all the club members, so don't just sit on the porch, get up and run with the number one club in the Delaware Valley. Support THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB!

As a reminder for those of you who volunteer to staff W3AA, see the station trustee, Steve (WU3I) to get the new code which will be changed this month. Please remember that you are NOT to give out the new code to anyone! Even if they are a volunteer. Only Steve is authorized to give out the code, and he'll keep a record of who has it.

Onto our Youth net. Steffie (KE3ZY) has been working very very hard at the youth activities, BUT she is only one person. Everyone offers his/her opinion on

Continued on page 8.

UPCOMING

- Nov 5 Directors' Meeting at
N3KQH & NU3Y's
- Nov 6 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute
- Nov 12 **General Meeting Program:**
Ol' Timers' Night
Derrick Pitts, KA3NQN,
The Franklin Institute's
Chief Astronomer.
~~~
- Dec 3 Directors' Meeting at  
WB3KOH & J's
- Dec 4 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute
- Dec 10 **General Meeting**  
**ELECTION NIGHT plus**  
**Annual "Town Meeting"**

### Future Programs

- Jan 2nd Annual PMRC Auction with our  
own irrepressible huckster, Russ,  
W3CH.
- Feb Modern paging, and how it works.  
John Baj from Metrocall.
- Mar MS150 wrap-up and thank you pizza  
party.

## HAMFESTS

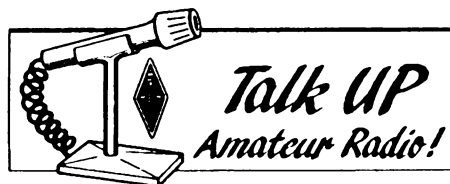
**FOR THE HAMFEST DEPRIVED:**  
Look for our "GOODIES" column each  
month, right here in the *Blurb*.

- Jan 14 PHILADELPHIA, PA  
Phil-Mont's Annual Auction
- July 12 KIMBERTON, PA  
MARC's "Valley Forge Hamfest"

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

*Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1997 test fee is \$6.25; there is no charge for a Novice test.*

- **THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours
- **BELLMAR, NJ**  
Diane Nafis  
609-227-6281
- **BRISTOL**  
George LeNoir  
215-943-4886
- **LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)**  
Russ Stafford, W3CH  
610-631-3401 x902
- **NORRISTOWN**  
Raymond Patton  
610-279-1897
- **TELFORD**  
Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697
- **UNIVERSITY OF PA**  
Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home
- **WARMINSTER**  
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494
- **WILMINGTON**  
Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757



### PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050  
aa3ep@aol.com  
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

Dec ..... Brian's Run

to the dawn of telecommunications is finding a new following among the most techno-savvy, who often learn about it through the Internet. Web sites for fans abound, featuring everything from poetic paeans to Morse ("Code Ode") to minutia like the American Morse symbol for a comma (·-·-·). More than 20 audio and computer software programs promise to teach the code to a generation that never actually saw it used. Young enthusiasts are also driving up the value of old telegraph sets, doubling prices in just the last five years, collectors say.

The American-Radio Relay League, a national group based in Newington, Conn., says that at least 85,000 of its members use Morse regularly, though they can now get amateur radio licenses that don't require knowledge of the code. Some take part in Morse contests, competing to transcribe quickly and accurately from a radio broadcast. Radio Morse even appeared at the recent Miss America pageant, when several volunteers sent messages to contestants' friends and families in code, using their own backstage machines.

Derek Cohn, a longtime ham-radio user, decided to take his Morse fixation even further a few years ago. The 35-year-old computer programmer learned how to use a telegraph from a 96-year-old retired operator. Now, his St. Louis apartment is lined with glass cases of Morse equipment, and he does telegraph demonstrations at schools and museums. The old-fashioned instrument, and its simple code, are a refuge from his job fixing software glitches at a telephone company, which keeps him on call via beeper and cell phone 24 hours a day, Mr. Cohn says. "This is the antithesis of what I do at work," he says. "It's a good place to hide from my technology." A four-year-old research group called Morse 2000

uses the code to help people with disabilities communicate, sometimes with nothing more than long and short eye blinks. The organization, based in Eau Claire, Wis., says interest is rising: Readership for its publication, MORSEIs, has grown from 45 to 2,600 in the last two years. Next month, leaders hope that educators will converge in Bloomington, Minn., for perhaps the first academic Morse conference, with talks on everything from "the standardization of Morse-characters for computer access" to "signal detection, in noise."

But no one uses Morse more religiously than the 2,400 members of the Morse Telegraph Club, which has made its own green eyeshades to mimic the ones telegraph operators once wore. The group meets every year on the birthday of Samuel F.B. Morse, presenting, naturally enough, the opening prayer in code. It publishes its own newspaper, Dots and Dashes, featuring code-related reminiscences, the Morse in the Movies column for film buffs and an obituary section called "Silent Keys."

Every Saturday, club members hook up their old telegraphs for a weekly party line, using modems to adjust the century-old technology to modern phone wires.

Most of the time, the members use Morse talks to keep up and exchange gossip, from occasional updates about cattle to the reports on Alaska weather. One member found out about the birth of his first grandchild via telegraph—after his telephone broke. For Mr. Adkins, the club's current president, the talks are also a way to maintain the language. "It's a part of history," he says. "Our mission is to keep it going."

Editor's note: The code represented in the article is American Morse, not the International Morse which is used on amateur frequencies.



## The Internet Generation Taps Into Morse Code

By ANNA WILDE MATHEWS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

FREEPORT, ILL.—On a recent Sunday afternoon, Jim Adkins went down in his basement to talk with a friend at the other end of the state. But he didn't log onto his nearby computer, or dial the telephone sitting on his small desk. Instead, the retired railroad dispatcher sat at a 50-year-old telegraph and tapped out ..... —... — — (Hi Bill). A moment later, he got a responding pattern of clicks. "Let's us keep in touch," says Mr. Adkins, 67 years old, who uses the telegraph for regular chats with other members of the Morse Telegraph Club. Morse code, the 153-year-old system of dots and dashes that displaced the Pony Express, still plays a role in the age of



A decade after the last telegraph circuit shut down, and two years after the U.S. Coast Guard stopped monitoring Morse radio transmissions, an odd alliance of hobbyists, academics and military officers is keeping it alive with a variety of new uses. Some aficionados even argue that a small Morse renaissance is under way, with everyone from disabled students to amateur radio operators mastering the code. "People think Morse is outdated and unsophisticated," says Gerald Wheeler, whose Palm Desert, Calif., company sells 100 copies a month of a Morse tutorial program for Windows 95. "But it still has many uses." Indeed, Morse plays a hidden part even in highly technical procedures like landing an airplane. Code broadcasts identify U.S. airport radio frequencies, where pilots tune in to guide their planes onto the runway. Buoys outside major ports have Morse identifiers, which respond to radar scans from cargo vessels looking for

the proper channel to enter. All students at the U.S. Naval Academy still learn Morse in their first year, in case they someday have to communicate in battle by flashing lights from ship to ship. "You don't want to have an officer out there who doesn't know Morse code," says Lt. James Santomour, an instructor at the academy. "It's vital." Of course, the code's role today is minuscule compared with the historical importance of Morse, once the only way to send messages quickly across the country. It was developed by Samuel F.B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, who used it to transmit the first telegraphed message ("What Hath God

Wrought?") from Washington to Baltimore in 1844. During the 19th century, the code was used to transmit Wall Street buy and sell orders, monitor speeding freight trains and broadcast the correct time so that people nationwide could set their clocks. Civil War generals got intelligence from Morse operators who carried telegraphs in hot-air balloons above enemy troops. Americans learned of Lindbergh's landing in Paris from an overseas Morse dispatch. The last radio message from the sinking Titanic in 1912 was the ominous ... --- ... (SOS) ocean distress signal. But few wanted to deal with dashes and dots once modern phones appeared. The then-Western Union Co. (now a unit of payment-services company First Data Corp.) sent its last Morse telegram in 1960. Cargo ships now carry cell phones and can use satellites to send faxes from the middle of the ocean to offices around the world. Even the Boy Scouts of America scuttled Morse in 1991, citing lack of interest. "It was the least popular merit badge in the organization," says a spokesman. Oddly, though, this throwback

## MINUTES

### OCTOBER DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The October Directors' Meeting was opened at 8:06 p.m. by Russ (W3CH) at Bill's (N3FVI) home in Roxborough. The following Officers and Board members were present: Russ (W3CH), Bill (W3GQD), Carol (N3PVO), Mike (K2BN), Jim (W3BBB), Steve (WU3I), Dick (W3RM), Charlie (AA3EP), Al (K3GNM), Bob (K3KUD), and Ed (KB3IV). The following reports were given.

**TREASURER** - Mike (K2BN) reported \$182.73 in receipts and \$510.81 in disbursements, with a net change in funds of -\$328.08. The largest expense for the month was the insurance premium.

**BUDGET** - Bob (K3KUD) reported a change in the Budget Committee meeting from November 12th to October 22nd.

**REPEATER** - Jim (W3BBB) reported all to be status quo with the intended move of the repeater. An appointment with Don Trane [tower climber] was set for October 17th at the site to finalize arrangements. From that meeting Don would work up a quote for the antenna installation on the tower. Jim asked for help to build the new shelter for the repeater. If you can help contact him.

**YOUTH** - Stefanie (KE3ZY) reported that the Youth Net has not been very successful. The lack of youth check-ins continues to be disappointing. Ways of getting the youth interested were discussed. Having a format and a topic of discussion was suggested. Also a reminder via e-mail could be sent to the youth members, and possibly a handout could be made-up to be given-out

at the test sessions. Also suggested was having a member of the club present on the Net who could answer questions relating to amateur radio, such as antenna questions etc. Show your support, both Youth and the Young At Heart by checking in on Thursday nights at 8 p.m.

**MEMBERSHIP** - Russ (W3CH) reported 3 applicants to be voted on for membership: Valery Toropin (AA3BI), Gary Guy (N3WPE), and Jules Miller (N3XHD). A motion was made and approved to accept the applicants into membership. Welcome to all.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Jim (W3BBB) reported that radio equipment had been given to the club as designated by the estate of silent key Jerry Mahoney (W3FB). The equipment will be either sold or auctioned, and the proceeds will be given to the Repeater Fund as specified.

Russ (W3CH) reminds us that election time is approaching. Contact Jeff (KE3UV) for any nominations, or if you're interested in running for office. Jim (W3BBB) was asked, and agreed to act as Judge of Elections again this year.

Jim (W3BBB) reported that the Center City site appears not to be hearing as good as the old site. There appears to be interference which was not present previously. The situation will be looked into. WU3I suggested adding a filter similar to the one successfully installed at W3AA.

Jack (W3IIM) reported that the ARRL newsletter is now available on the Internet as an audio file. It was also suggested possibly

*Continued on page 6.*

## MINUTES

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary

The 570th General Meeting of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club was opened at 7:29:25 p.m. by Russ (W3CH). A motion was made and approved to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous month. The following reports were given.

**Emergency Coordination** - Gene (N3XKE) said he had no emergencies to report.

**Field Day** - Steve (WU3I) reported "Yes, Field Day is not until June but I am preparing now." If you would like to be a band captain, talk to Steve.

**Membership** - Stefanie (KE3ZY) reported that no new members had been voted on this month because of the change in date of the Directors' Meeting from the first Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of the month, due to the Holiday.

**Repeater** - Rick (N3DHI) reported that we are waiting for the connectors to be delivered, otherwise, all is status quo.

**Special Events** - Charlie (AA3EP) reported a good showing for the MS150. Of the 123 people who signed up, 121 people came out, 43 of those were Phil-Mont members [editor counts 52]. Good Job!

**Sunshine** - Steve (WU3I) reported all members healthy, as far as he knows.

**W3AA** - Steve (WU3I) reported receiving a certificate of recognition from the MS Society for W3AA's help, and a certificate of recognition to W3AA for 20 years in MARS. Steve also reported that the security department at the Institute reported that people have been active in the radio station, and on the 4th floor, after Museum hours. Steve stressed to all: the station is to be shut

down at 5:30 p.m. when the Institute closes, unless prior arrangements have been made with the museum through Steve. Also on November 1st, the code for entrance to the station will be changed. All volunteers must contact Steve for the new code which will not to be given-out to anyone but volunteers, and is not to be given out by anyone but Steve.

**Welcome** - Mike (N3PDO) reported 21 members and 5 visitors attending the meeting.

**Youth** - Stefanie (KE3ZY) reported that backup net control operators are needed for the Youth Net. Don't forget to check-in every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

**Social Events** - Russ (W3CH) reminded all of the club breakfast, October 18th, 9:00 a.m. at Shady Maple.

With no more business to discuss the meeting was turned over to our program speaker Mr. Joseph Miketta of NOAA.

See you all at next months meeting. ☺

*Continued from page 5.*

having the newsletter on the Youth Net.

Jack (W3IIM) asked what plans had been made for Old Timers Night coming up next month. Through discussions it was agreed to have wine and cheese before the meeting during the social time between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Russ (W3CH) reported complaints from the Institute, had been brought to his attention, of people in the hallways during the meeting, and people in the station. It has been asked that people do not loiter in the hallways, and no one will be allowed in the station on meeting nights without prior

safety, is still in the draft stages and not yet available to the ham radio community. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said it's essential that the FCC make Supplement B available in time for hams to complete their evaluations to meet the deadlines in the rules.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who's been involved in reviewing the draft supplement, said he expects the FCC to release it sometime in November. "Above all, it is important that the required station evaluation be as easy as possible for hams," he said. "The FCC has pretty much met that goal. Additionally, most hams, by virtue of their power levels, will not need to do an evaluation at all."

Section 97.13(c) says that before you transmit "from any place where the operation of the station could cause human exposure to RF electromagnetic field levels in excess of those allowed," you have to perform a routine RF environmental evaluation if your transmitter PEP exceeds these limits: 160-40 meters, 500 W; 30 meters, 425 W; 20 meters, 225 W; 17 meters, 125 W; 15 meters, 100 W; 12 meters, 75 W; 10 meters, 50 W; VHF (all bands), 50 W; 70 cm, 70 W; 33 cm 150 W; 23 cm, 200 W, 13 cm 250 W, SHF/EHF (all bands) 250 W. If the routine environmental evaluation indicates that the RF electromagnetic fields could exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits, you must take action to prevent human exposure.

The new Forms 610 may be obtained from the FCC's Web site via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>, at <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/> or by fax at 202-418-0177 (request index, or for Form 610 use form code 000610, for Form 610A use form code 006101, for Form 610B use form code 006102). The FCC Forms Distribution

Center will accept FCC forms orders at 800-418-3676.

ARRL VEs and VE teams will be able to obtain a supply of the new Forms 610 in late November.

Individual amateurs may obtain a copy of the new Form 610 by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Include 32 cents postage for each Form 610 requested.

## THE FORGOTTEN BAND

Russ Stafford, W3CH

I was on one of our Phil-Mont nets a few Sundays ago, giving out the talk-ins for the club breakfast. I noted, when the net control went to read back all the talk-ins, he stated that he did not know the 220 frequencies, and that the Phil-Mont people needed to know only 147.51.

Well guess what! There are a whole lot of people on the 220 band! Oh yes, even a whole lot of Phil-Monsters on it. There are at least four club members who own 220 repeaters. The facts are real clear that with a lot of new members coming into the club, many of them are on 220, and like it!

Is there anyone on 220? Well, in the Philadelphia area you can start at 224.98, and come down every 20kc and you will find a repeater. There is generally someone monitoring. If no one answers on 147.03, I will go over and put out a call on 220 and most, if not all the time, someone will come back for a QSO.

So for some of our less informed members, yes there are a lot of Phil-Mont members on 220, and 220 is doing very well! ☺

QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 58  
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT  
October 3, 1997 To all radio amateurs  
**FCC announces electronic renewal  
Form 900**

Hams now can renew their licenses on line. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

This form is only for renewals, not for license modifications. You can only enter changes (eg, name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of expiration). You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a taxpayer ID number.

Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html> (click on Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications to access the Form 900). Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on Electronic Renewal Query lets you view or print the information submitted.

Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the Continue button to obtain the fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance

Advice, Form 159. The form will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license (except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet).

Form 900 updates will be batch processed at night. They are not instantaneous.

Send comments about the FCC Form 900 to [sreed@fcc.gov](mailto:sreed@fcc.gov). For technical assistance, call the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. Other general information may be obtained from the FCC's National Call Center at 888-225-5322 (CALL-FCC).

QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 63  
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT  
October 24, 1997 To all radio amateurs  
**FCC issues new Form 610**

The FCC has announced that as of January 1, 1998, Amateur Radio applicants may only submit FCC Forms 610, 610A and 610B that carry an edition date of September 1997. After the first of the new year, previous editions of Form 610 will not be accepted for filing by the FCC or by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). Amateurs may begin using the new Form 610s now.

The major change on the new form is a certification that says the applicant has "read and will comply with Section 97.13(c) of the Commission's Rules" regarding RF radiation safety and the amateur service section of OST/OET Bulletin No 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields.

But, Amateur Radio Supplement B of Bulletin 65, which has additional information on how to conduct a routine RF safety evaluation and explains other aspects of RF

## 150<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS OCTOBER

8 candidates took 18 elements  
2 new amateur plus 1 upgrade

VE team members:

**Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman**

Mike Collins, NI2E; Jim McCloskey, KE3OP; Jeff Kerber, KE3UV; Bob Freer, W3YLT

**AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

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Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

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## General Meeting Refreshments Wine & Cheese at 7pm

permission from Steve (WU3I).

Jim (W3BBB) reported, as Judge of the P.M.R.C. Postal Shooting Match, that the winner was Tom (WA3KLR).

**OLD BUSINESS** - Jack (W3IIM) asked the status of the club attaining 501(c)(3). It was agreed we need to move forward on this.

**W3AA** - Russ (W3CH) reported that The Franklin Institute had informed him of plans to close-off the 4th floor for use as office space. The result would be that no active exhibits would be on the 4th floor. This will affect the station. We have not been asked to move the station, but plans are to have only "soft exhibits" (portable) in the Institute. When the Institute was asked

where the station would be moved to, the answer was that there were no plans to move the station. This would make the station a dead exhibit. In other words, the station would no longer be an active exhibit. Plans for these changes are scheduled for May of 1998. A discussion ensued on what we need to do. No definite decisions were made to save the station, but it was agreed that a plan needs to be put in place.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9:30 p.m. by Russ (W3CH).

Special thanks to Bill (N3FVI) for hosting the meeting. ♪

Continued from page 3.

what she should do to improve the net, yet not one offer to help her make these suggestions happen. We have about 14 or so younger members, and many more who are young at heart. If we could all pitch in and help her this would be a good thing. My first suggestion would be that the young and young at heart share the responsibility of being net control. I, for one, have volunteered to be net control one Thursday night. If only the youth participated in the net this would mean that you would only have to share the responsibility once every 14 weeks! I've checked into the youth net on many occasions, and found them to be fun! You don't have to be young, just young at heart.

Now—last but not least—our CW net. I've talked to a few members of late and guess what?? What good does it do anyone to have the same guy check in each week and ask for 30 wpm? Guys, wake up! We have lots of no-code techs who are afraid to check in because they don't know 30 wpm or even 5 wpm. Let's start at least a part of the net, possibly the first 20 minutes, with the basics, A, R and E, then move on the following week to three more letters, etc. This would then lead to 5 wpm, then 8 wpm, 13 wpm, etc. as the weeks go on. I feel strongly that we would have more check-ins, and it would have a lot more meaning. I would first let it be known far and wide before you start with A, R and E so you don't have to repeat once you have started.

Finally, don't forget Old Timers' Night this month. There will be special goodies, and many old friends to visit with! 'Hope to see you all there. 73 de Russ (W33CH) ☺

**Come to a Phil-Mont  
meeting, and see what  
all the talk is about!**

## FEEL GOOD: NOT GOOD

### Youth Net Woes

Opinion by Jack Haring, W3IIM

**A**s the club struggles with the lack of participation by the young people in the Youth Net, the oldsters are making the problem worse in their generous, but misguided effort to lend support.

Weren't you ever a teenager? Did you welcome older people into your affairs?

At the June General Meeting, did you notice that there was a large group of youngsters off by themselves, way back in the farthest corner of the auditorium? Would you have forced your presence on them by injecting yourself into their discussions? Do you think they would have appreciated your presence?

Why then do you think that having a whole bunch of older folks check-into "their net" is going to encourage their increased participation?

We all want the net to be successful, but checking-in, and then dominating the conversation, or even suggesting that we're paying attention to what goes on in "their" net is not helping. I don't think that they should even be using the same preamble as issued on Sundays. It's BORING, and "BORING" is a big turn-off to any youngster.

Checking-in makes us feel good; it supposedly demonstrates our support. What it really does is inject a measure of adult oversight and supervision which, at their age, *does not* encourage more participation. Independence is *good*. A youth net dominated by adult check-ins is *not good*.

Let's let the 'youth' have their own net. We have ours on Sunday. If they don't support their own net, it will cease. If we adults continue to dominate it, it is no longer a youth net. ☺

## POLLUTION

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

**A**nyone who has been a ham for more than 20 years may stop reading this now! Old habits are too hard to break.

Now for the rest of you. It is not necessary to identify on *every single transmission*, nor is it necessary to *identify the station(s) that you are in communication with*.

Read the "Word according to the FCC," then think before you pollute.

### § 97.119 Station Identification.

(a) Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel *at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication*, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station. ☺

### CALLSIGN LOOKUP

'Ever want to know someone's NEW call-sign but you just couldn't recall it from your human hard drive? Fret no more. If you have Internet access go to:

<http://www.ualr.edu/~hamradio>  
and enter his/her old callsign, and in a flash you will have the new one. ☺

WB3KOJ

From: "Geoffrey S. Mendelson"

&lt;geoffm@cs.huji.ac.il&gt;

Subject: New call

To: wb3koj@ComCAT.COM (DON GORDON)

Date: Tue, 23 Sep 1997 16:48:52

+0200 (IST)

Hi Don,

Since everybody has gotten a new call, I thought I would join the crowd. :- ) Actually I went to Tel-Aviv today and got real Israeli calls for the family. The new calls are:

Me: 4X1GM (class aleph (A) (extra) from US advanced)

Margie: 4Z7BIG (No code tech, class dalet (D))

Paul: 4Z7BGD (No code tech class dalet (D)), 4Z9BIG (Novice class gimel (C))

Margie and Paul can upgrade to general (class bet (B) by taking a 12wpm send and receive test. The novice has 2-meter privileges and 20 and 40 cw. The no code tech has 2 and 430-440 privileges, all at low power.

Class A and B are valid in any country that has signed the CEPT. US citizens must use an FCC license in the US even if it signs the CEPT.

73, Geoff.

Geoffrey S. Mendelson (4X1GM, N3OWJ)  
Senior Programmer, Computer Science  
Institute, Hebrew University,  
Jerusalem, Israel  
geoffm@cs.huji.ac.il  
(02) 65 85692 Fax (02) 561 7723  
To get pgp public key: "finger  
geoffm@cs.huji.ac.il"

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The ARRL Letter Vol. 16, No. 40  
October 10, 1997

## ARRL AUDIO NEWS DEBUTS OCTOBER 17

The League will inaugurate ARRL Audio News, a weekly, Web-based audio news service, on October 17. Compiled from The ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News will include the week's top news from the world of Amateur Radio and the League. ARRL Audio News will be available in RealAudio format via the ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/>. Tucson Amateur Packet Radio—TAPR—has generously agreed to provide space on its Web server to permit the League to offer this service.

Senior Assistant Technical Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, who compiles and edits The ARRL Letter will be the regular on-air voice for ARRL Audio News. The service will be available free to anyone and may be retransmitted in whole or in part for bulletin purposes provided ARRL Audio News is

credited as the source.

Each edition of ARRL Audio News will contain up to 10 minutes of timely Amateur Radio news. It will be available via the ARRLWeb every Friday by 9 PM Eastern Time. Dial-up telephone access to ARRL Audio News will be announced later.

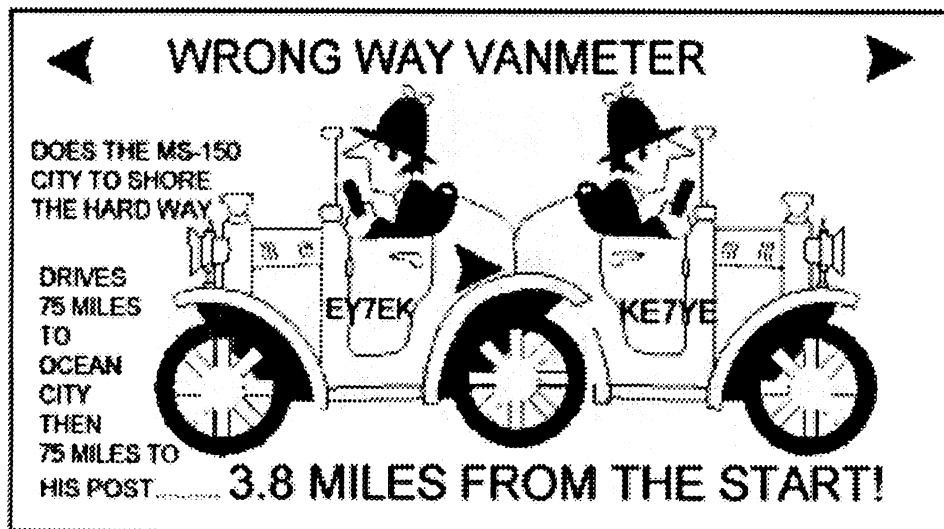
For more information, contact Rick Lindquist, N1RL, e-mail [n1rl@arrl.org](mailto:n1rl@arrl.org); tel 860-594-0222.

## Feedback

### Thought for the Day

Why is it that the Sunday morning net control stations always manage to read the birthday listing (of interest to few), and hardly ever remember to read the information about upcoming General Meeting programs (of interest to many)?

W3IIM



Here we are closing on the end of the year. In the last month we (the Board) have been dealing with some touchy news from the Museum.

In May the fourth floor is being closed for renovations to move the offices from the third floor. The fourth floor will not be open to visitors. The museum has not, at this time, set aside space for W3AA.

It is very important that the station be manned at all times. If you cannot make your scheduled time please contact the Volunteer Office which has a list of standby volunteers. It is your responsibility to find someone to cover the station. We must be able to show that we are a viable exhibit.

Communication is ongoing with the powers that be at the Museum. We have not been asked to leave, but still need space to set up the station to be in the flow of museum visitors.

Effective November 1, the key-box code will be changed. Please contact me in person at 215-535-8061 to receive the new code. Many people with no need have the code. Please do not share the knowledge of the code with anyone. I am keeping a list of all those who contact me, and they should be the only ones with the code.

—Steve Hoch, WU3I

The International Voice of The Franklin Institute Science Museum

# THE W 3 A A REPORT

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

## SOAP BOX TIME!

Jim Spencer, W3BBB

I guess it's time I got up on my soapbox again. My subject is HR-2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1997. This pending work of art is apparently the result of Newt Gingrich's indiscretion when using a cellular phone, and the recording and distribution of same.

The author of this bill, W.J. Billy Tauzin, is Chairman of the Telecommunication Subcommittee. The bill, according to QST (Nov. p. 15), forbids the reception of CMRS, Commercial Mobile Radio frequencies. It has been loosely named the Scanner Law. I suspect that when Newt got his fingers burned, many of our congressmen said "there but for the grace of God go I."

We went down this road in 1967 with the City of Philadelphia and Ordinance 2691 which specifically prohibited owning or using any radio capable of receiving police or fire frequencies. This bill allowed police to confiscate any radio they deemed so capable. It was later declared unconstitutional by Philadelphia Municipal Court.

When any radio transmission leaves the antenna, it should be fair game for any listener—period. If the transmission is encoded to prevent interception, so be it. But to make the *reception* of radio signals illegal is pure poppycock, and an infringement of your rights. What I do with the information I hear is another story entirely. That use is restricted by many existing rules.

I doubt that anyone could seriously disagree with a penalty for the use of information obtained from monitoring any radio frequency. The key phrase is "what you do with what you hear." Wreck chasers, journalists looking for sensational exposure, etc. certainly deserve some scrutiny. But

HR-2369 would make a 2 meter transceiver, which can receive frequencies above and below the 2-meter band, illegal to manufacture, sell, own or use.

If this sounds to you like Greenpeace, minority discrimination, or any other term you want to use, then you had better read more on the subject. I have had it with legislators, working eight months a year, and getting fat salaries, trying to tell all of us what to do and how to do it. I consider this another example of our congressmen meddling in something they know little about, and one of many attempts to regulate where regulation may not be in order. 'CYA' is the only term which will cover this action.

Maybe some of my information is not completely accurate, but I'm sure you will get the impression that I am upset with this turn of events.

How do *you* feel about it? ☺

## "The Party of Goals" announces 1998 Slate

President: ..... Russ, W3CH  
Vice President: ..... Charlie, AA3EP  
Secretary: ..... Carol, N3PVO  
Treasurer: ..... Mike, K2BN  
Directors: ..... Bill, W3GQD  
Gene, N3XKE

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Ya say ya don't wanna drive all the way down to Delaware, or up to Trevoze, just to buy an \$8 Repeater Directory, Bunky?

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<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>

## PACKET RACKET

Russ Stafford, W3CH

The big question lately has been, what are the differences between BBS programs? What is AX.25 versus TCP/IP? Well here's a short answer.

### Some BBS Programs

**MSYS:** This is a very good program put it has many shortcomings:

- 1- It is limited to a maximum of 2,000 messages.
- 2- It has a maximum number of 6,500 Bids.
- 3- Must be housecleaned by a Sysop.
- 4- Can't use add-on programs like Internet Gateway.
- 5- Uses lots of memory.

**4RE:** This is an older program, and not used very much in this area

**N3DFD:** This program is written right here in our area, and is a very good program with few shortcomings. It gets better every week.

**F6FBB:** This is one of the best BBS programs out there. Its shortcomings are:

- 1- It is a real bear to get running!
- 2- It does more stuff, and takes more add-on programs than any one person can remember.

Some good things:

- 1- There is no maximum number of messages (limited only by the size of your hard drive).
- 2- It's made to run remotely, so the Sysop does not have to babysit it.
- 3- There are 1,000s of add-on programs.

There are many many commands for Packet BBSs. The following are just the ones most commonly used in this area. From the

user's standpoint, they all work more or less the same.

**SP** Send personal; **SB** Send Bulletin; **RM** Read Mine; **KM** Kill Mine; **LM** List mine; **LB** List Bulletin.

The call book server works differently on most, as do the Internet gateways. The above are all AX.25 systems. The TCP/IP or NOS works a whole lot differently.

With NOS you have an address (e.g. 44.80.13.13) which is how your mail is routed to your mail drop. You can also get mail via the Internet through your router. The big downfall to NOS is that it is not routed as AX.25 from BBS to BBS to your home BBS. It must be routed, or hard coded, from server to server, and if one goes down, it must be Sysop routed around the down station. When it is all working it works very well. In this area there is a very fine NOS system running.

Neither time nor space permit long drawn-out explaining, but you can get me on the air. I monitor 224.68, 443.05, 146.835 and 147.03 most of the time, as I scan them mobile and at home. Or via packet W3CH@W3CH.#SEPA.PA ☺

## GOODIES

Bird ThruLine Wattmeter model 43 with the following slugs

50C (50W 100-250 MHz)  
250H (250W 2-30 MHz)  
1000H (1000w 2-30 MHz) ..... \$200

Charlie Stouth, W3ZPP



1997

## NOVEMBER

1997

| SUNDAY                                                        | MONDAY    | TUESDAY                                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                   | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                      | FRIDAY      | SATURDAY                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b><br>2M NCS N3OWM<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS W3PWG    | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>WA3NSP<br><i>Election Day</i>  | <b>5</b><br>DIRECTORS'<br>MEETING at<br>N3KQH & NU3Y's                                                                      | <b>6</b><br>LICENSE EXAMS<br>at<br><b>The Franklin Institute</b><br>Registration begins at 6:00<br>Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i><br>YOUTH NET @ 8 PM | <b>7</b>    | <b>8</b>                                                                              |
| <b>9</b><br>2M NCS W3STW<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS W3STW    | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>N3FVI<br><i>Veterans' Day</i> | <b>12</b><br>GENERAL MEETING<br>at<br><b>The Franklin Institute</b><br>Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.<br>Meeting starts at 7:30. | <b>13</b><br>YOUTH NET<br>at 8 PM                                                                                                                             | <b>14</b> ○ | <b>15</b>                                                                             |
| <b>16</b><br>2M NCS WB3KOJ<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS N3JDM  | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>W3RM                          | <b>19</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>20</b><br>YOUTH NET<br>at 8 PM                                                                                                                             | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b>                                                                             |
| <b>23</b><br>2M NCS KB3IV<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS KB3IV   | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>CODE PRACTICE<br>NET at 8 PM<br>WA3NSP                        | <b>26</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>27</b><br><br><i>Thanksgiving Day</i>                                 | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b>                                                                             |
| <b>30</b> ●<br>2M NCS W3BBB<br>10M NCS W3HFY<br>75M NCS W3BBB |           |                                                                            | Even if you're on<br>the right track,<br>you'll get run-<br>over if you just<br>sit there.                                  |                                                                                                                                                               |             |  |